



Shoal Creek Trail Project Status Update Public Works Department

**Comprehensive Planning and
Transportation Committee
January 13, 2014**

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Agenda

- Overview of Project
- Conflict with Austin Energy Vault
- Current Status and Next Steps
- Questions and Discussion



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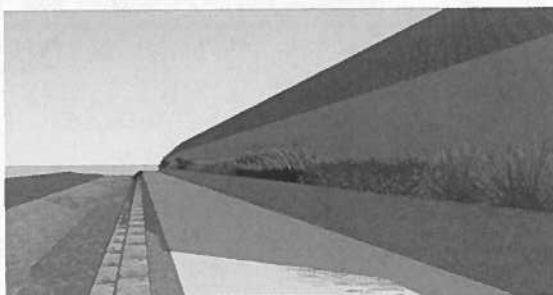
Overview of Project

- **Project Purpose** – Provide an ADA compliant bicycle and pedestrian trail to “close the gap” in the Shoal Creek Trail between 3rd Street and 5th Street.
- **Other scopes of work included in the project:**
 1. Relocation of a wastewater line out of Shoal Creek
 2. Streambank stabilization using reinforced wall structures
 3. Bicycle and Pedestrian bridge spanning Shoal Creek from 4th Street at Rio Grande to the former Energy Control Center
 4. Austin Energy chilled water lines to hang on the proposed bridge
 5. Trail Lighting

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Overview of Project

- **Managing Department** – Public Works
- **Sponsor Departments:**
 - Public Works Neighborhood Connectivity Division
 - Watershed Protection
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Austin Water Utility
 - Austin Energy
- **Design Engineer:**
 - HNTB



Conflict with AE Manhole

- AE provides Network service to Downtown area via a system of vaults, conduit and manholes
- An AE manhole is located in the area of the proposed bike/pedestrian bridge.
- In early September 2013, AE raised the existing ingress/egress to the manhole. This was done to address issues of safety, security and accessibility for maintenance.
- Once the issues with the manhole location were discovered, AE worked with the project team to find solutions to address the situation.

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Conflict with AE Vault



- During design, an existing AE manhole at bottom of creek was located near the proposed bike/ped bridge.
- Manhole was discussed with AE and it was determined that the manhole could be left in place as long as it and the enclosed high voltage lines were protected during construction.
- In early August 2013, HNTB submitted 100% construction documents and advertisement for bids was being prepared.
- In early September 2013, AE raised the existing manhole and enclosed it in a concrete vault. The manhole was raised to address issues of safety, security and accessibility for maintenance.
- Raised vault is now in conflict with the proposed bike/ped bridge

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Conflict with AE Vault

- During September and October, project team held a series of meetings to analyze options for resolving the conflict.
- The following options were analyzed:
 1. Relocating AE Vault – would cost at least \$2M and take approx. 18 months.
 2. Moving the vault opening to a corner of the vault to mitigate conflict - would reduce the accessibility for maintenance and is not acceptable to AE.
 3. Removing the pike/ped bridge from this phase of the project to accomplish in future phase – would require burying the chilled water lines in 5th Street and West Avenue, which is extremely congested and may not be feasible. If feasible, would cost approx. \$1M and take approx. 1 year.
 4. Removing heritage tree on east bank of Shoal Creek and shifting bridge to avoid conflict – removal of heritage tree not desirable.
 5. Reducing the bridge width from 16' to 12' to avoid conflict – not desirable due to reduced capacity.
- Project team determined that reducing the bridge width from 16' to 12' is the only feasible option. Useable width of bridge will be 10'.

Current Status and Next Steps

- HNTB was directed to redesign bridge to 12' width.
- Final construction documents were submitted for permitting and other reviews in December.
- Project is scheduled to advertise for bids in early February.
- Bids scheduled to open in mid-March.
- Construction scheduled to start in April.